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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/697,465	10/26/2000	Ronnal P. Reichard	5785-23	4519

7590 09/13/2002

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EXAMINER

KUHNS, ALLAN R.

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/697,465	Applicant(s) REICHARD ET AL.
Examiner KUHN S	Group Art Unit 1732

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on JUNE 24, 2002

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 21-36 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 21-36 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement

### Application Papers

The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

All  Some\*  None of the:

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received  
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

### Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2  Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892  Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 1732

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 21-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisher.

Fisher discloses the basic claimed method of forming high strength panels suitable for use in applications requiring a capability to withstand compression loading without deformation including (1) positioning a first fabric layer spaced from a second fabric layer to form opposed panel surfaces (column 2, lines 28-33), (2) fixing a foam core between at least a portion of the fabric layers to form the panel, and (3) securing at least one rigid compressive load bearing member or reinforcing body between portions of the foam core. Fisher appears not to discuss resistance to point compression but providing for such resistance would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to prevent the deformation of the panel, as described by Fisher.

Fisher suggests the use of metallic material, as in claim 22, by stating that wires may be used at column 3, line 2. Fisher also illustrates the formation of peripheral flanges or tabs at panel edges, as in claim 23 and the formation of a boat hull, as in claim 24. Fisher inserts the load bearing member between panels, as in claim 25 and the claims do not really require the embodiment involving selection of a channel, as in claims 26-30. The foam of Fisher does not

Art Unit: 1732

penetrate the fabric layers, as required by claim 31, and the use of batts disclosed by Fisher at column 2, line 30 suggests the use of non-woven fabric layers, as in claims 32-36.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allan Kuhns whose telephone number is (703) 308-3462. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jan Silbaugh, can be reached on (703) 308-3829. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7718.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

*Allan R. Kuhns*  
ALLAN R. KUHNS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER AU 1732  
9-11-02